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NRO review(s) completed.

COR-8421  
Copy 5 of 9.

20 April 1959

*ARGON*

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT : U. S. Army Project APOLLO and Relation to CORONA

1. The U. S. Army is presently engaged in seeking DOD approval for a photo reconnaissance satellite program known as Project APOLLO (formerly SALAAM). The APOLLO satellite will map the earth's surface while simultaneously photographing celestial bodies above the satellite, thereby establishing a celestial fix for each point on the ground recorded by the earth-photographing camera. The ultimate purpose is to pinpoint accurately strategic targets.

2. The Army has already approached ARPA for a program approval for APOLLO. ARPA approved the Army program in preference to a similar USAF proposal which then was before ARPA. Mr. York, however, felt it was a duplication of CORONA and requested that four high level Army research and development officials be cleared in order to explain this duplication. The officials were cleared and briefed. The Army also talked to representatives of ITAUTOMAT regarding exploitation of the take from Project APOLLO.

3. After the briefing, the Army envisioned the use of a modified CORONA camera and were optimistic about producing a payload to be operational in 1959 utilizing Itek and General Electric as prime contractors.

4. The matter is now scheduled for review by Mr. York on 20 April 1959 at 1600 hours. Senior representatives from ARPA, USAF, and Army will be in attendance. Both the Army and ARPA have requested that a senior representative of LPD be present.

5. Although ARPA regards APOLLO as a separate program, not connected with CORONA, the Army indicated to [redacted]

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that perhaps the APOLLO payload could be included in the CORONA series. The Army is aware that any suggested changes in CORONA must be fully coordinated with the Agency.

6. The following represents our conclusions and proposed CIA policy for your consideration:

- a. The President has indicated that the overflight photography involved should be accomplished by CIA.
- b. Presidential approval will be sought for each shot by CIA in the same manner as CHALICE approvals have been obtained.
- c. The Army proposal could cost four planned CORONA shots. Informally ARPA has indicated CORONA as the highest source. The first CORONA operational shot is scheduled for 28 May.
- d. No new system should be approved until the first camera flight is completed because a great deal of experience will be gained.
- e. The only Soviet overflight capability approved by the President is the CHALICE program. Indications are that he will grant approvals for CORONA flights. Therefore with a CORONA operational capability next month and with clear approval channels, CIA should oppose diverting missiles from this approved national program.

SIGNED

WILLIAM BURKE  
Colonel, USAF  
A/CINCPAC-1/P

DPD-DD/P [redacted]

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APPROVAL: Policy outlined in para. 6, above, approved.

20 APR 1959

Deputy Director  
(Plans)